



PQA Quality Connection

*A Bi-Monthly Briefing on PQA Initiatives
and Broader News about High Quality
Healthcare Issues*

PQA 2017 PQA Annual Meeting “Valuable”, “Riveting”, “Inspiring”

“A perfect balance of valuable, timely content and time to connect with colleagues and exhibitors,” one attendee described the 2017 PQA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland this past May.

Healthcare quality executives and associates from health plans, PBMs, community pharmacy, pharmaceutical research and technology companies, government agencies including CMS and the FDA, healthcare associations and academia, came together to hear from experts on the state of the healthcare industry and to share thoughts and ideas on improving medication use and safety. Throughout the 2-day meeting, industry experts and PQA members led acclaimed breakout sessions, poster presentations, and panel discussions to provide comprehensive and compelling content on topics such as the future of patient reported outcomes performance measures and pharmacy performance in value-based networks.

Inspirational keynote speaker, Alex Sheen, founder of the “because I said I would.” non-profit and social movement, provided a broader context and left the audience “speechless in one moment, crying the next, and then laughing after that,” as one attendee remarked regarding his emotionally riveting presentation.

Other meeting highlights included:

- Keynote addresses from Dr. Richard Shannon, MD of the University of Virginia Health System and Clay Alspach, JD of Leavitt Partners that anchored the meeting’s theme of navigating the uncharted waters of healthcare quality.
- PQA membership endorsement of [three new performance measures](#) related to Hepatitis C and Polypharmacy.

- Presentation of the PQA Quality Awards to [eight Medicare plans](#) for high achievement or significant improvement in PQA measures of medication safety and appropriate use.
- Break-out sessions covering timely industry issues including team based-models of care, community pharmacy collaborations, patient directed quality measure development, long-term care transitions.
- Over 40 poster presentations covering research and projects related to quality measurement and improvement. The abstracts presented during the session are now available online through the journal, Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy (RSAP) accessible at: <http://www.rsap.org/>.
- Culmination of the inaugural PQA - CVS Health Foundation Scholar program with student presentations on the results of their quality-related projects.

Congratulations to our poster session winners and top three PQA-CVS Health Foundation Scholars!

- General Poster Session Winners:
 - Blood pressure goal attainment in specialty versus primary care ambulatory settings in a university health system
 - Sarah Billups, Joseph Vande Griend, Lisa Schilling, and Joseph Saseen; University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and School of Medicine
 - Reduce fentanyl patch prescriptions in opioid naïve patients throughout Kaiser Permanente Southern California outpatient pharmacies
 - Wendy Fukushima, Bobby Davari, Tim Buhl, Michelle Ly, Steven Steinberg, Lynn Garofalo, and Chris Chang; Kaiser Permanente – An Integrated Non-profit Health Care System
 - Exploring factors associated with pharmacists' intention to monitor CMS Star Ratings measures using the Theory of Planned Behavior
 - David George, Michael Smith, JoLaine Draugalis, Shellie Keast, Eleni Tolma, and Justin Wilson; University of Oklahoma Colleges of Pharmacy & Public Health
- PQA-CVS Health Foundation Scholars Program Winners:

- The impact of objective quality ratings on patient selection of community pharmacies: A discrete choice analysis
 - Julie Patterson, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy, PharmD Candidate 2018
- A pharmacist's role in transitions of care settings as part of a patient care management team to decrease re-admissions
 - Kavita Parikh, Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy, PharmD Candidate 2018
- Comparing FAERS and Twitter data on high-risk medications for the elderly and the impact on the CMS star rating system
 - Michael Peters, Purdue University College of Pharmacy, PharmD Candidate 2018

Attendance to the PQA Annual Meeting and the PQA Leadership Summit in November is one of many valuable benefits of PQA membership. One attendee summarized the value of attending these PQA meetings; "the PQA team always creates a first-class agenda that balances the need for delivering high-quality content and providing ample opportunities to collaborate with other attendees."